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Resource Report

The E-Newsletter from SMRI, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
Institute operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey.

July
2006

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Greetings!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Resource Report, the E-Newsletter of the Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute.

It is our intention to provide you on a monthly basis news and information on issues related to sustainability.

As we grow this newsletter we would appreciate hearing from you, our readers, on the topics you would like to see featured.

Thank you for your support of and commitment to the Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute.

Joseph Porrovecchio, Director, SMRI
Lara Rodriguez, Editor, Resource Report

- **FEATURED SEMINAR: It's the Money: Separating Green Fact from Fiction in the Design and Construction of Low-to-Mid-Rise Buildings.**

Presented by: The NJ Chapter of the USGBC.
When: Friday, July 21st

Where: Meadowlands Environment Center
Time: 7:45 to 8:30 am
- continental breakfast & registration, 8:30 am



Seminar Overview:
Where To Look To
Invest In Sustainable
Markets - June 27th

Ms. Deborah Taylor provided welcoming greetings to attendees and a status of the NYC Department of Buildings Green Initiatives.

The premise of the seminar was the understanding that science and technology already exist and merely need to be expanded to improve our global environment while preserving our natural life support systems.

Ms. Suzanne DiGeronimo presented the seminar topic, *Where to invest in sustainable markets*, it was identified that investors are increasingly seeking to place funds in green/sustainable/high performance areas.

Questions addressed were: What are the three components of such areas? and How would an individual be able to identify a program with high return possibilities from one destined to languish?

22 individuals attended the seminar (4 were from New Jersey). The interested population was: ten (10) from the Department of Buildings, five (5) from architect/engineering contractors, three (3) from the EPA, three (3) community/educators and one (1) FFE supplier.

Of the participants, 11 requested certificates for 1 professional development hour.

SMRI made available a survey questionnaire. Of those who responded all requested additional detailed seminars. Regarding possible travel from NYC to the Meadowlands five (5) indicated preference for car transport from NYC to the Meadowlands, others indicated a preference for a shuttle bus from the Secaucus Transfer Station and Weehawken Ferry terminal.

[For additional information on the keynote speaker](#)

to Noon - Program

Tickets: \$99 - at the door, \$89 - in advance, \$79 - members of the USGBC.

Earn Educational Credits: AIA - 3 Learning Units, BOMI - 3 CPD Points, IFMA - Pending

Register online at: squarefootage.net

Questions about the seminar: 503-274-7162

(Corporate Realty, Design & Management Institute).

Additional sponsors: Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute, Center for Sustainable Real Estate Commercial Building Products Corporate Realty, Design & Management Institute, Star Net Cooperative, Stevens Roofing Systems, Trenwyth, Business Environments and Allsteel.

[For additional information...](#)

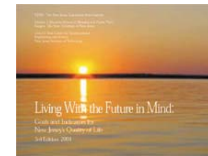
• NEWS YOU CAN USE

New York City, Department of Design and Construction has published nearly two dozen sustainable design specifications on their web site.

[Read on...](#)

• RECOMMENDED READING: *Living with the Future in Mind*

The New Jersey Sustainable State Institute (NJSSI) published the third edition of ***Living With the Future in Mind*** to, among other purposes, "facilitate the establishment of targets for the indicators so they can more effectively be used to guide public decision-making".



This report embraces the term sustainable development as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (1)

The concept of sustainability is rooted in the recognition that our society, our economy, and the natural environment are interdependent. Eleven goals and forty-one indicators were selected as the best ways to measure quality of life and to highlight the interdependence of economic, environmental, and social systems.

These goals, indicators, and targets are designed for use by: citizens, the media, educators, nonprofit organizations, and public officials. The data in the system are not detailed enough to provide technical solutions to complex problems, but they are comprehensible enough to give us a good sense of whether we are making headway on the issues of concern to us.

Quick Links...

- [Meadowlands Environment Center](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
- [Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability](#)
- [United States Green Building Council - New Jersey Chapter](#)
- [New Jersey Sustainable State Institute](#)

Hard copies of this report will be available at the "It's The Money" seminar on July 21st at the Meadowlands Environment Center.

(1) World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987. Our Common Future. (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

[The third edition of Living with the Future in Mind is available here](#)

• **SMRI SUPPORTERS: Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce**

The Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce received a briefing on the mission and goals of SMRI. As a result of this meeting, the MRCC President and CEO, James Kirkos has invited Joe Porrovecchio to brief members of the Chamber at their August Membership Meeting.



- Thursday, August 17th
- 8:00-10:00 am
- Meadowlands Environment Center
- Prospective members welcome, please contact Judy Ross (201) 939-0707 for additional information.

We sincerely thank Mr. Kirkos, and the members of the board of the Chamber, for the opportunity they are providing us to spread the word about SMRI.

[To learn more about the Chamber...](#)

• **SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENTS: New York City**

LOCAL LAWS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK No. 86 FOR THE YEAR 2005: Local Law 86 (aka LEED law) was enacted on October 3, 2005 (the Local Law or LL86). It establishes standards for design in the areas of energy use and water use among many others. This Local Law will have a positive life cycle impact on many City-funded capital projects.

Summary

The United States Green Building Council, the nation's foremost coalition of real estate and environmental organizations working to promote green buildings, has developed a green building rating system known as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Buildings receive LEED certification if their designs score sufficient "points" in five general design areas including siting, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality.

The State of New York provides tax credits for

buildings that meet defined green building criteria and, under Executive Order 111, state agencies are directed to reduce energy use and carbon dioxide emissions and to utilize green building principles.

In this change the term "green building standards" means design guidelines, a rating system or rules for constructing buildings that ensure site planning, water efficiency, energy efficiency and renewable energy, conservation of materials and resources and indoor environmental quality. Applied to each capital project in the City of New York with an estimated construction cost of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) or more involving (i) the construction of a new building, (ii) an addition to an existing building, or (iii) the substantial reconstruction of an existing building shall be designed and constructed to comply with green building standards not less stringent than the standards prescribed for buildings designed in accordance with the LEED green building rating system to achieve a LEED silver or higher rating.

[See web site for full text concerning this law](#)

- **SMRI/MEC EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

SMRI and the staff of educators at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) have begun work on developing a sustainability curriculum to be utilized at the MEC during the 2006/2007 school year.



SMRI and the MEC are in discussions with the Unity Charter School (K-8) in Morristown and the Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education in New York City regarding their participation in this pilot program.

Components of the curriculum are anticipated to include: Green Building Convocation, Green Building Lesson Plans and an Alternative Energy Sources Lesson.

Staff from both SMRI and the MEC will attend the Cloud Institute in July for training.

- **PEOPLE AND PLACES**

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201-460-8300

The joint SAME membership of its NY City and New Jersey Posts, hosted by the US Army Corps of Engineers, conducted a New York Harbor Inspection featuring the sustainable estuary and harbor deepening project.

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